Anthony O’Toole

Up

Grade 4+/5

Written for the Indiana University of Pennsylvania Symphony Band
Dr. Jason Worzbyt, Conductor

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THE COMPOSITION

_**Up**_ was completed in the Spring of 2013. I had this piece on my ‘back burner’ so to speak for months prior and hadn't really had the time to sit down and develop it the way I'd like. But the frame work was there. And when a colleague contacted me about a new piece, I knew I had to finish it. So after a few days of hard work I had completed the piece. This composition was initially inspired by a picture of hot air balloons I saw; I've always enjoyed hot air balloons, the way they float in the sky and the bright colors of the balloons.

The work is a study of sorts in contrast and harmony, although those two elements are not the only focus. _**Up**_ spins together beautiful melodies, fresh harmonies, a relentless ostinato, whimsical solos, and moments of pure exaltation and affirmation. On a personal level, _**Up**_ was written at a time when my career was beginning to flourish before my eyes and it seemed like everything was going my way for a change. My music was being performed regularly and I had gained the respect of a lot of musicians and composers that I had idolized only a few years ago as a teenager (and whom I still idolize!). To me gaining this respect and being seen as a serious artist and musical colleague was one of the high points of my life. The thrill of seeing your dreams come true and your hard work and dedication to craft paying off is a personal joy unsurpassed by any other in my life. And this piece, while inspired by hot air balloons, also perfectly depicts the exhilaration I felt those early months of 2013; On top of the world!

Anthony O'Toole

THE COMPOSER

Anthony O’Toole, born 1988 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, holds a bachelor’s degree in Music Theory & Composition from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania where he studied composition with Daniel Perlongo, Jack Stamp and David Martynuik. He is currently a master’s student in Composition at George Mason University where he studies with Mark Camphouse. Anthony O’Toole’s music is unique and fresh with its intense rhythmic energy, lush jazz-influenced harmonic language and his talent for highly effective and colorful orchestration. Mr. O’Toole has written more than 100 works for almost every medium and began writing music in his early teens.

In high school his interest in composition stemmed from his studies as a percussionist and love of performing. He also became a competent multi-instrumentalist learning piano, viola, saxophone, clarinet, trombone and tuba. Although he was largely self-taught as a composer he credits many of his teachers for being mentors and advocates of his music. While at IUP he had the pleasure of receiving lessons and attending lectures from guest composers such as Cindy McTee, Samuel Hazo, Christopher Marshall, Frank Ticheli, Clark MacAllister, Richard Danielpour, Bruce Yurko and Drew Hemenger.

After graduation from IUP in 2011 he worked full-time as a composer while also working as an orchestrator and arranger for 2 years before beginning his MM in Composition at GMU. In the last 5 years Mr. O’Toole has received numerous prizes which include the Grand Prize in the 2012 Garritan Composition contest for his orchestral work ‘CA-91’ as well as other accolades and honorable mentions. His music has been featured in the GIA Publication ‘Teaching Music Through Performance in Band’ (Solo with Wind Band Accompaniment edition) and a large amount of his music is published by BVD Press, Cimarron Music Press, Euphonium.com and Bandworks Publications.

In particular, his band music has become rather popular and has been played by some of the finest ensembles including the University of North Texas Wind Symphony, The Indiana University of Pennsylvania Wind Ensemble and the United States Coast Guard Band. His band music and chamber music have been performed all over the country and internationally in Canada, Australia, Taiwan, Portugal, Britain, Brazil and Singapore.

Mr. O’Toole currently lives in Fairfax, VA as a graduate student all while maintaining a full load of commissions for original works as well as arranging and orchestrating projects.

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